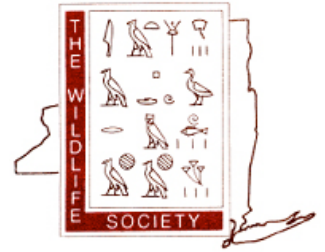


Newsletter

New York State Chapter- The Wildlife Society



A Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2007

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President's Message

Time Flies! It seems like just yesterday I was writing one of these messages. In my last message I was trying to get out in the field like many of you were doing. It seems the more involved in management you get, the less you get into the field. I did, however, get several days out to do monitoring for rare species, water quality, and bird surveys. So, the summer wasn't a total bust. Here at Brookhaven National Laboratory we have a large internship program in Natural Resources so it is always bustling with activity from June through early August. I do hope everyone's field season was productive.

On to NY TWS stuff! If you weren't able to make our Fall Field meeting you missed another good one! Gary Goff did an excellent job in making arrangements for the NY State Museum tours and dinner in the museum followed the next day with a Grand Tour of the Albany Pine Bush. I want to express my thanks to him for his efforts on making it so successful, please see his piece on the meeting. I also want to thank our hosts Dr. Roland Kays of the State Museum and Neil Gifford the director of the Albany Pine Bush. Both provided us with a tremendous experience!

So, what's coming up in NY TWS? We are planning for another great annual meeting in Owego, NY. The theme for this year's meeting is: "From Wind to Willow to Wildlife – the Impacts of Biofuels Production on Biodiversity." This is a very timely theme especially when you consider \$100/barrel oil, rising natural gas prices, global warming, devaluation of the U.S. dollar, etc. There just seems to be issue after issue that we as wildlife managers/biologists will have to deal with now and into the immediate future. What are the impacts of converting agricultural food production into energy production? Is it really effective? What are the current

energy production impacts? These and other questions are likely to be discussed at our Annual Meeting.

This meeting is also going to be a little different. We are working to put together a multi-day event with Day 1 starting at noon on Feb. 20 with registration, then moving right into Student activities. We are focusing day one events toward our Student Chapters. The first afternoon is open to student papers and posters. We'll have a student/professional social, then move on to Quiz Bowl in the evening. We are encouraging all NY Student Chapters to participate. Our newest Student Chapter at Paul Smith's College is putting the Quiz Bowl together. Day 2 will focus on our Theme and we are starting to pull together appropriate talks for the day and the evening banquet speaker. Finally, Day 3 will be geared more toward traditional wildlife papers, so if you have something you'd like to present please contact Angie Berchielli at AngieBerchielli@MSN.com.

Associated with our Annual Meeting is our Annual Business Meeting. This year is an election year for several Executive Committee Members. If you are interested in serving the Chapter we are seeking nominations/volunteers for serving as Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. What are your commitments for this? Each position commits to two years of service. The Executive Committee typically meets 4-5 times per year in order to run the business of the Chapter. So, please consider running. Information on positions can be found at our website at <http://www.wildlife.org/chapters/ny/index.cfm> then click on bylaws. Nominations are due by the end of December.

It is also time to consider nominations for our various awards. If you know of students, professionals, or groups that you think are worthy of one of our awards please see the award descriptions and forward your nominations to Angie Berchielli at

AngieBerchielli@MSN.com or myself at tgreen@bnl.gov.

Since our last newsletter TWS has held the Annual Conference in Tucson. NY TWS was able to provide support to a couple of our Student Chapters and we had three Student Chapters Attend. The three student chapters in attendance were Cobleskill, Paul Smith's College, and SUNY ESF. All three entered the Student Quiz Bowl and all three made it to the Second Round. This was an amazing accomplishment, as no other state had that many student chapters make it to the second round. They all did well, but unfortunately did not take the trophy on subsequent chapters. But there is always next year in Miami!

Finally, a push for membership. If you haven't been keeping up with changes at TWS check out www.wildlife.org. TWS has been updating the website and their services. They now have a new sub-units coordinator who has been providing tremendous help to us, and they have a new webmaster that has really been doing a great job in improving web services. We will have control of our web content shortly. The web is not the only place where TWS is improving. There are three new Draft Policy Statements out for review by membership. You can see these on the web site. Overall membership is beginning to increase after several years of decline. This turnaround is largely due to efforts of a number of people at Headquarters and a very committed TWS Council. So, if you know of wildlife professional that isn't a member, ask them to become a member today! A strong committed membership in the Society makes for a strong and effective Professional Society!

See you all in February in Owego!

Timothy Green
NY Chapter President

2007 Fall Field Meeting

The NY Chapter was graciously hosted by Dr. Roland Kays, NYS Museum and Neil Gifford, Albany Pine Bush Preserve, for our 2007 fall field meeting. The 25 student and regular members attending were treated to a truly unique educational and pleasurable opportunity! I wish to sincerely thank both hosts and their institutions for providing us with such a memorable adventure. I, for one, will be back to see and learn more the first chance I get!



Our social hour and dinner was held at the NYS Museum <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/> in the Adirondack Room, where Neil gave us a brief overview presentation of the history and programs of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve. Roland then took us on a "behind the scenes" tour of some of the exhibits and labs at the museum. It was the perfect follow up to the wildlife genetics theme Tim Green arranged for us at the 2005 Annual Meeting at Brookhaven National Lab, on Long Island. The NYS Museum is working on some very innovative work assessing the genetics of various wildlife, such as wild canids in NYS. Having the opportunity to view extinct specimens of ivory-billed woodpeckers and passenger pigeons was awe inspiring! We also saw some of the bones of ancient elk and wholly mammoths found in prehistoric pits in NYS. It was a tremendously memorable and valuable experience.



We started the field trip portion of the meeting the following morning at the new Albany Pine

B u s h C e n t e r <http://www.albanypinebush.org/main.htm> where Neil gave us an introduction to the preserve. The Center is a first-class interpretive center with lots of hands-on educational displays and a great reference and gift shop. We drove around to several sites to gain a full appreciation of the historic, geographic and ecologic significance of the barrens. Neil gave us some insight to the ongoing effort to set back natural succession and invasion by non-native plants. Both mechanical and fire techniques have been used successfully. This work is still cutting-edge methodology and the techniques and monitoring are still undergoing adjustments, truly adaptive management at its best. We saw lots of the key rare and unique plants (pitch pine, scrub oak, dwarf chestnut oak, dune willow, smooth sumac, big and little bluestem) and even a late inlands barrens buck moth! Neil and his colleagues are to be commended for the tremendous success they have had in preserving and enhancing this unique ecosystem. It was very encouraging to witness such a great success story in face of the many challenges they face.



-Gary Goff, NY Chapter Vice President

Photo 1: Neil Gifford addressing TWS members at the Albany Pine Bush Center

Photo 2: The Albany Pine Bush Preserve has miles of trails through the unique and beautiful ecosystem

Photo 3: Pitch pine cones

Student Quiz Bowl to be Held at Annual Meeting

At the Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Tucson, Arizona in September, three NY student chapters competed in the Quiz Bowl facing student chapters from around the country. SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry and Paul Smith's College all ad-

vanced to the second round of the Quiz Bowl in this highly competitive event. We invite all New York student chapters to take a part in testing their wildlife knowledge amongst fellow students at the Annual Meeting of the New York Chapter of The Wildlife Society in Owego, NY. The Quiz Bowl is scheduled for the evening of February 20th and will be hosted by the Paul Smith's College Student Chapter. All student chapters are encouraged to enter a team of four students in this exciting event where students come head to head in a double elimination tournament. Questions for the Quiz Bowl will cover a wide range of wildlife related topics, provided by college professors and wildlife professionals. Question categories include Biology/Taxonomy/Ecology (birds, mammals, herps, fish, plants, and invertebrates), Biogeography/Biodiversity, Population Ecology, Management Techniques, Conservation Policies, Human Dimensions/Wildlife Damage Management, Soils/Geology, Statistics/Biometrics, TWS "Trivia" (questions on The Wildlife Society itself) International Wildlife Conservation, and Disease/Pathology. Students, get your Quiz Bowl teams ready to compete. Professors and wildlife professionals, we need questions so send them in by January 15, 2008 to Michelle Clark (mclark12@s.paulsmiths.edu).

By Julia Polasik and Michelle Clark

Message From the Editor:

Please send any information you would like to see published in the Summer Newsletter in Microsoft Word format to Valorie Titus (vtitus@bnl.gov) by March 1, 2008. Any photos are also welcome! Thanks!

[Click here for the Newsletter Podcast!](#)

TWS Websites:

www.wildlife.org/chapters/ny/

www.cobleskill.edu/nychapters

www.esf.edu/org/tws

www.wildlife.org

DEC ANNOUNCES \$2.75 MILLION TO HELP VULNERABLE WILDLIFE

Twenty Projects to Receive Funding to Assist Species Most in Need of Protection

Article from NYSDEC Press Release- Full Press Release can be seen at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/39773.html>

Turtles in the Hudson Valley, caddisflies in the Adirondacks, paddlefish in Western New York and whales in New York Harbor are among the species that will benefit under \$2.75 million in wildlife and biodiversity grants awarded to 20 research and planning projects throughout the state, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Pete Grannis announced today.

The funding is available through the New York State Wildlife Grants Program – the core program to conserve biodiversity and protect potentially threatened and endangered species. Funding was awarded to projects sponsored by universities, non-profit groups and research centers.

“The projects that we have chosen will significantly advance our goals of understanding and improving populations of New York’s most vulnerable species of fish and wildlife,” Grannis said. “Working with these partners, the goal is to find and implement new and innovative ways to help reduce the risks facing our state’s diverse ecosystems and enhance sensitive wildlife communities for the benefit of all New Yorkers.”

New York has a vibrant collection of plants and animals, with more dragonfly and damselfly species than any state except Texas and more mammal species than any state in the Northeast. According to the New York Natural Heritage Program, however, only 55 percent of the state’s plants and vertebrates are considered secure and the status of most invertebrates remains hard to pin down.

These concerns were highlighted during the development of the New York Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy adopted in 2006. The undertaking, which took more than two years to develop and included the input of more than 100 government agency and organizational partners, found that the biological diversity of the state is challenged by development sprawl, habitat degradation and loss, invasive species, pollution and climate change. The strategy’s recommendations, including funding the State Wildlife Grants program, will serve as a blueprint to conserve wildlife and prevent additional species from being added to the federal Endangered Species List.

The State Wildlife Grants program receives federal funding to support projects that will protect and enhance the “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” (SCGN) in New York. More than 500 species

in New York are deemed at risk for decline and possible extirpation -- herons and egrets, tree bats, freshwater mussels, sturgeon species, several types of butterflies and moths, and the hellbender salamander, among others. Further information on the CWCS and the full list of the state’s Species of Greatest Conservation Need may be viewed at the DEC website at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/animals/7179.html>.

New York-based chapters and offices of the The Nature Conservancy were among the grant awardees. Kathy Moser, Acting New York State Director, said, “The Nature Conservancy is thankful to DEC for this funding from the State Wildlife Grants Program. These funds will help us work with partners to manage and restore habitats to sustain New York’s rich wildlife diversity.”

The 20 projects receiving funding today will protect SCGN and advance the strategy’s recommendations through research, planning, management and restoration work, and evaluation of prior restoration efforts to facilitate good management practices for the future. New York State agencies, municipalities, and not-for-profit organizations were eligible to apply for grants. Below is the list of grant recipients.

Research and Inventory Projects – Total \$349,042:

- Institute for Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, Dutchess County - Project will focus on the mussel communities in several streams/rivers in Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster Counties.
- Wildlife Conservation Society’s Adirondack Program – assessment of the levels of mercury in tissues of Species of Greatest Conservation Need across New York.
- Cornell University - study the movements of whales in New York’s coastal waters using passive acoustic listening arrays, assisting avoidance of whale deaths due to ship strikes while entering New York Harbor.
- State University of New York (SUNY) Plattsburgh - to describe the community of mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies of the Adirondack region.
- SUNY Potsdam - to describe the community of amphibians and reptiles in northern New York.

Planning and Administration Projects – Total \$711,214:

- New York Natural Heritage Program - to help planners target key conservation corridors that will assist animal movement and migration at multiple scales in the Upper Hudson and Lower Hudson/Long Island Bays watersheds, and in particular the 10 counties bordering the Hudson River Estuary.
- The Nature Conservancy Adirondack Chapter - to build a strategic partnership around conservation and transportation in New York State; identify best management practices to improve culvert designs to restore and enhance fish and wildlife movement.
- New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) - to identify landowners of critical forested habitats for Species of Greatest Conservation Need statewide who would be willing to undertake forested habitat management and restoration activities on their lands. Final products will include a

site-specific map layer that would be compatible with the DEC mapping system, identifying the property boundaries and habitats of interested landowners; and the communications, funding, and technical assistance needed to engage these landowners in taking future action.

- SUNY Research Foundation on behalf of the University at Albany - to undertake a wildlife conservation analysis for Montgomery County.

- Clarkson University - to evaluate the success and ecological impact of wetland restoration incentive programs for SGCN on private lands. The project will focus on restoration programs in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties funded by federal programs aimed at private land stewardship.

- The Nature Conservancy’s New Paltz office - to evaluate the efficacy of prescribed fire to maintain forest and grassland habitats for bird SGCN in the Shawangunk Ridge.

Management and Restoration Projects Total \$1,132,920:

- The Nature Conservancy - for endangered Karner blue butterfly habitat restoration in the Albany Pine Bush and Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park.
- Palisades Interstate Park Commission - to manage wetlands within the Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks in Orange and Rockland Counties for the diverse turtle community found there.
- DEC’s Division of Lands and Forests - to manage and restore 1,618 acres of grassland habitats on various state-owned lands in central and lower New York State.
- The Mohonk Preserve - for initiatives to better manage the regeneration of low forest vegetation. The SGCN expected to benefit from increased forest regeneration are forest dependent birds.
- The Wildlife Management Institute – to develop a set of Best Management Practices for the American woodcock - a representative species dependent on shrub habitat.
- The Nature Conservancy Long Island Chapter - to use prescribed fire to restore and expand pitch pine scrub oak woodlands, grasslands, shrubs, pine and oak forests. The fires will improve these habitats for bird, butterfly, moth, amphibian and reptile SGCN, and increase their populations.
- The Prospect Park Alliance - to restore Lookout Hill, an important piece of Brooklyn’s last forest and a documented critical habitat for 50 bird SGCN.

Performance Monitoring Projects – Total \$318,582:

- Ithaca College - to evaluate the effects of an experimental forest management area on golden-winged warblers in Sterling Forest State Park.
- DEC Region 9 Fisheries Office - to evaluate the success of a paddlefish stocking effort in the Allegheny River and its tributaries.

Announcement of 2008 Annual Meeting and Call For Papers

2008 Annual Meeting of the New York Chapter – The Wildlife Society
February 20 – 22, 2008 Owego Treadway Inn and Conference Center
Owego, New York

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the New York Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be held at the Owego Treadway Inn and Conference Center, in Owego, New York. The meeting will run from noon on Wednesday, February 20 through noon on Friday, February 23.

The theme for this year's annual meeting is From Wind to Willows to Wildlife – the impacts of Biofuel Production on Biodiversity.

Invited speakers will cover a broad spectrum of biofuels and other alternative energy sources, and their potential impacts on wildlife. Laura Bies from the TWS National office is one of the invited speakers, and will present TWS policy on Wind and Alternative Energy.

Day one papers - Calling all wildlife Students – student presentations – papers and posters 1:30-4:30PM. Question and answer time 4:30 – 5:30 PM. Student Quiz Bowl that evening.

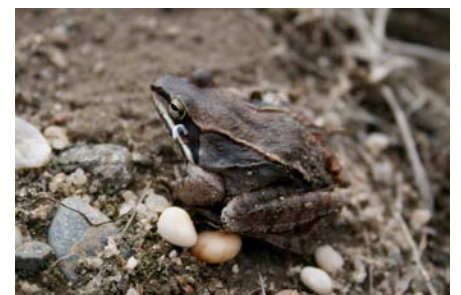
Day two – Impacts of Alternative Energy Production – Papers on any aspect of wildlife/alternative energy relationships.

Day Three – Papers open to General Wildlife Management 8:30-11:00.

In addition to our selection of invited speakers, members are encouraged to submit abstracts for presentations of approximately 30 minutes for the paper sessions (20-25 minutes of presentation, followed by 5-10 minutes of questions).

Abstracts of one page or less in length, single-spaced, should be submitted to Angie Berchielli, 3861 SR 85, Westerlo, NY 12193 or via e-mail to AngieBerchielli@MSN.com. Submission of abstracts by e-mail attachment (MS Word or Rich Text Format) is preferred. Along with your abstract, please indicate what audiovisual equipment you will need (overhead projector, slide projector or digital LCD projector for PowerPoint Presentations).

Deadline for submission of abstracts is January 15th, 2008. Notification of acceptance will be via e-mail by February 10th



Registration Form – 2008 Annual Meeting

New York Chapter – The Wildlife Society
 Annual Meeting, 20-22 February 2008
 Owego Treadway Inn and Conference Center, Owego, NY

The 2008 Annual Meeting for NY-TWS will be 20 to 22 February 2007, at the Owego Treadway Inn and Conference Center, in Owego, NY. The theme for our 2008 Annual Meeting is From Wind to Willows to Wildlife – the impacts of Biofuel Production on Biodiversity. For room reservations, contact Owego Treadway Inn directly (607-687-4500). A block of rooms will be held for us through 1 February 2008. A Holiday Inn Express (607-687-9000) also is available next door to the Owego Treadway Inn.

To register, complete and mail the form below, along with your registration fee, to be received no later than 15 February 2008.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail _____

Registration (includes registration fee, breaks, meals, and social hour snacks) for NY-TWS members is \$135. Non-member registration fee is \$145 (same as above and includes 1-year NY-TWS membership). Registration fee for students is \$60 (same as above and includes 1-year NY-TWS membership). One day registration - \$90 regardless of membership.

	Amount Enclosed
Registration fee for members (\$135)	_____
Registration fee for non-members (\$145, includes 1-year NY-TWS membership)	_____
Registration fee for students (\$60)	_____
One Day Registration (\$90)	_____
Total fee enclosed:	_____

Complete this form, enclose your registration fee (check or money order, payable to NY-TWS), and mail, to be received no later than 15 February 2007, to:

NY-TWS Annual Meeting
 Attn: Tim Green
 Brookhaven National Laboratory
 81 Cornell Ave., Bldg. 120
 P.O. Box 5000
 Upton, NY 11973

Meet the NYS Chapter V-P Candidates!

Dr. Jorie Favreau of Paul Smith's College and Dr. Jacqueline L. Frair of SUNY ESF



Jorie Favreau is an assistant professor of wildlife biology in the Fisheries and Wildlife Science program at Paul Smith's College where she teaches courses such as Techniques in Wildlife Management, Wildlife Management, and Conservation Biology. She is excited to be building

the new Fish and Wildlife program, advising the newly minted PSC student chapter of The Wildlife Society, and to begin her research in the Adirondacks. She runs a mist net station for MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship), a North American mist netting program that allows MAPS biologists to determine population trends for North American passerines on landscape scales. In spring, she will begin radio tracking red squirrels in the Adirondacks to answer theoretical questions about foraging and movement behavior.

Jorie's PhD is in zoology from North Carolina State University. Her master's degree, which focused on conservation management, is from DePaul University. Her bachelor's degree is in biology from Illinois Wesleyan. Prior to obtaining her PhD, she worked as a field technician for a variety of organizations including NY DEC (peregrines), Arizona Game and Fish (bald eagles), US Fish and Wildlife Service (California condor project), US Forest Service (small mammals in southeast Alaska), US Geological Survey (honeycreepers in Hawaii), for a graduate student (hawk migration in the Florida Keys), and for the Institute for Bird Populations (mist netting songbirds in Indiana). While pursuing her PhD, she trapped and radio tracked black bears in the mountains of North Carolina.

Jorie M. Favreau, PhD

Assistant Professor of Wildlife

Division of Forestry, Natural Resources, and Recreation

Paul Smith's College



After completing a B.S. in Natural Resources from Cornell University, I went to northern Wisconsin to study the effects of highway expansion on the recolonizing wolf population and completed a M.S. degree through the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. From there I made my way to Alaska, where I worked for Ducks Unlimited for 3 years and coordinated a statewide survey of the status of waterfowl habitat. I also worked with the Bureau of

Land Management in Alaska where I gained an appreciation of the threats that changing policy and land use poses for the persistence of species. Feeling that I did not yet have the skills to help solve such complicated problems, I left Alaska to pursue a Ph.D. in Environmental Biology and Ecology at the University of Alberta. My dissertation research focused on assessing the cumulative effects of timber and gas extraction activities on elk populations in the northern Rocky Mountains. I quickly recognized that one couldn't know why elk did what they did without first understanding what wolves were doing. What I didn't expect was how complicated the interactions were among humans, wolves, and elk and how important experiments and modeling would become for untangling the effects of human activities on elk populations. This was a very rewarding project that involved translocating elk, tracking both elk and wolves with GPS-equipped radio-collars, and developing GIS tools to facilitate more effective management of elk populations.

I became an Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Fall 2006. I teach wildlife techniques, landscape ecology, graduate seminars in quantitative methods, and an upper division practicum that provides hands on experience solving the types of complicated problems that biologists face in the real world. This summer I will also be taking ESF students on a back-country expedition in Alaska. Currently, I have two graduate students funded by the DEC that are studying the foraging ecology of coyotes in NY State and their potential effects on deer populations. I am also working with biologists in Québec to model habitat effectiveness for caribou at the southern end of their range where human pressure on their habitat is greatest. A member of The Wildlife Society since 1994, I am also now the faculty advisor to ESF's student TWS chapter. It would be my pleasure to serve as the Vice-President of the state chapter. I would bring a boundless enthusiasm for involving students in state chapter and regional activities, and a lot of experience in managing the logistics required to do so. I would also relish the opportunity to learn more about wildlife issues in the northeast, as well as the key management players, to enrich my courses at ESF.

Dr. Jacqueline L. Frair

Assistant Professor, Wildlife Ecology

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Syracuse, New York 13210 USA

New York Wildlife Society

**New York Chapter
The Wildlife Society Membership Application**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

City, State, and Zip Code: _____

Dues: January 1, 2008-December 2008, regular \$10.00
January 1, 2008-December 2008, student, \$5.00

Please Check: New Renewal Regular Student

"50 in 5" Contribution: \$20.00 for 2008 Other: _____

Make check(s) payable to: "New York Chapter, TWS"

Return to: Mike Putnam, NYSDEC, 1285 Fisher Ave. Cortland, N.Y. 13045



Bureau of Wildlife
625 Broadway 5th Floor
Albany, N.Y. 12233-4754

- Mailing Address Line 1
- Mailing Address Line 2
- Mailing Address Line 3
- Mailing Address Line 4
- Mailing Address Line 5

